

Draft Minutes of the Chinatown Working Group (CWG) Full Group Meeting  
5:00pm-6:00pm, Monday, June 6, 2016  
New Design High School, 350 Grand Street

Voting members present: 83-85 Bowery Street Tenants Association (Shu Qing Wang); 229 Henry Street Tenants Association (Mary Ma); 318 Restaurants Union (Liang Chen, Chi King Ju); Asian American Arts Centre (Robert Lee); Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (Margaret Fung); Chinatown and Lower East Side Artists Against Displacement (Francisca Benitez, Jessica Santos); Chinese Staff and Workers Association (Jung Ze Chu, Wendy Cheung, Fun Mae Eng, Antonio Quay Lin, Ren D. Ma, Zishun Ning); Good Old Lower East Side (James Rodriguez); Lower East Side Mujeres e Hombres Luchadores (Louise Velez); National Mobilization Against Sweatshops (Michael Lalan, David Tieu); New Design Justice League (Jordan Capik, Zhanay Edwards, Brian Mella), Sixth Street Community Center (Howard Brandstein).

Also present: Diem Boyd (Lower East Side Dwellers); Trever Holland (Two Bridges Tower Residents Association); rob hollander (Lower East Side Residents for Responsible Development); Alan Lee (UEAA); Nancy Lin (neighborhood resident); Norma Ramirez (neighborhood resident); Jenny Yu (neighborhood resident); Christina Zhung (Knickerbocker Village Tenant Association); Amelia ?(illegible).

Meeting called to order, 5:15pm, Margaret Fung, facilitating.

Trever Holland: A benefit June 9 at the Bowery Hotel will celebrate developers on the waterfront. We should protest outside.

rob hollander: At the CB3 Land Use Committee, the committee Chair, MyPhuong Chung, said there was no need to move forward with the CWG plan. Community Board Chair Gigi Li, however, included the CWG plan on the committee agenda for June.

David Tieu: Gigi Li was quoted in City Limits as intending to negotiate with the Department of City Planning on subdistricts A, B and D, which leaves out the west of Chinatown and the area north of Grand Street. We are mobilizing to attend the CB3 full board meeting on June 28 to insist that the CB demand DCP to implement the entire plan and not separate it. There are CB members who are sympathetic to our cause.

Wendy Cheung: We want a commitment from CB3 on the entire plan exactly as CWG passed it.

Michael Lalan: CB3 should honor the process as a sponsor organization.

Trever Holland: The waterfront is urgent. Five tall towers, one of them 1,000 feet tall, are coming down the pike. A rezoning takes years. We need a separate strategy for subdistrict D, the waterfront.

Margaret Fung: The group wants the entire plan, including the waterfront, implemented. We want to avoid splintering.

rob hollander: The waterfront developments show the importance of the inclusiveness of the plan. Maybe we can use the waterfront as the vanguard struggle for the entire plan.

James Rodriguez: We need to go back to the Land Use Committee to get agreement on the plan.

Trever Holland: DCP will be there and will be looking for community consensus. If you ask the CB to agree to the CWG plan and there are differences between the CWG and CB3 plans, the CB will have to review the entire plan, which will take months which we don't have in dealing with the waterfront.

Margaret Fung: Those who want to attend the Land Use Committee should go just to gather information. Those who want to express their views publicly, should attend the full board meeting.

Michael Lalan: Let's mobilize for the full board meeting -- tabling with flyers.

Diem Boyd: At your demonstrations include on your posters something like "Chinatown Working Group stands with the people," to advertise who you are.

James Rodriguez: Be careful how the CB3 differences are presented. If DCP is in the room it's important to show community solidarity.

rob hollander: I'd like the group to vote on going to the Land Use Committee on the 15th.

Vote: 16 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.

Trever Holland: Stay unified. NMASS has been going into my building undermining the building resident leaders. Divisiveness is not going to work in this neighborhood. I'm asking for unity. Let's pledge to unite and not attack each other.

Margaret Fung: Let's hope we can work even on different tracks. We are united on issues.

Trever Holland: I agree or I wouldn't be here.

Michael Lalan: I hope you [Trever] will become a member.

rob hollander: The first Monday in July is the 4th, so let's have the next meeting, July 11.

Meeting adjourned, 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
rob hollander, CWG Sec'y